



Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón
President Emeritus
Miami Dade College

An American by choice, Dr. Eduardo Padrón arrived in the United States as a teenage refugee in 1961. Since 1995, he has served as President of Miami Dade College (MDC), the largest degree granting institution of higher education in America. He is credited with elevating MDC into a position of national prominence among the best and most recognized U.S. colleges and universities. An economist by training, Eduardo earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2018, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of America's oldest and most prestigious organizations. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S., for being a prominent national voice for access and inclusion in higher education. In 2009, TIME magazine included him on the list of "The 10 Best College Presidents." In 2010, Florida Trend magazine placed him on the cover of its inaugural "Floridian of the Year" issue. In 2011, The Washington Post named him one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S. Also in 2011, he was awarded the prestigious 2011 Carnegie Corporation Centennial Academic Leadership Award. In 2012, he received the Citizen Service Award from Voices for National Service, the coveted TIAA Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence, and the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellowship. In 2015, he was inducted into the U.S. News & World Report STEM Hall of Fame. Eduardo's energetic leadership extends to many of the nation's leading organizations. He is the past chair of the board of directors of the American Council on Education (ACE) and is a past chair of the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and former chair of the Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF). During his career, he has been selected to serve on posts of national prominence by five American presidents.

Internationally, Eduardo's accomplishments have been recognized by numerous nations and organizations including the Republic of France, which named him Commandeur in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques; the Republic of Argentina, which awarded him the Order of San Martin;

Spain's King Juan Carlos II, who bestowed upon him the Order of Queen Isabella; Spain's Prince and Princess of Asturias, Felipe and Letizia, who presented him with the Juan Ponce de Leon

500th Anniversary award; Morocco's King Mohammed VI, who appointed him Honorary Consul in Florida of the Kingdom of Morocco in 2016, and the Amicus Poloniae from the Republic of Poland.

Eduardo's pace-setting work at Miami Dade College has been hailed as a model of innovation in higher education. He is credited with engineering a culture of success that has produced impressive results in student access, retention, graduation, and overall achievement. MDC enrolls and graduates more minorities than any other institution in the United States, including the largest numbers of Hispanics and African-Americans. Under Eduardo's leadership, Miami Dade College has received national recognition for its longstanding involvement with its urban community, its catalytic effect for social and economic change, and the marked difference the College has made in student access and success through pace-setting initiatives.

He currently serves on the boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Urban Institute and the Spencer Foundation; RC 2020; the International Association of University Presidents; and Achieving the Dream. In past years he has held leadership positions on the boards of the Federal Reserve Board of Atlanta, Miami Branch (past Chair); the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (Chair); the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the White House Commission on Educational Excellence; Campus Compact; Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute; The College Board; and the White House/Congressional Commission of the National Museum of the American Latino.

He is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and prestigious awards.

Adrienne Calvo
Chef, Author, Restaurateur
Chef Adrienne's Vineyard
Restaurant and Wine Bar

Since 2007, Adrienne Calvo has taken the food scene by storm, firmly establishing herself as a celebrity chef, author, television personality, philanthropist, and restaurateur. To date, she has produced five cookbooks: *Maximum Flavor* (2005), *Chef Adrienne: Driven by Flavor*, *Fueled by Fire* (2008), *#MaximumFlavorSocial* (2014), *Play With Fire* (2015), and *The A-List*, a two-volume work released last year.



Her restaurant, the award-winning Chef Adrienne's Vineyard Restaurant and Wine Bar, has dazzled patrons with its boldly creative menu and its extraordinary "Dark Dining" event, in which guests get to experience a heightened sense of taste by being blind folded during a multicourse dinner. Among the restaurant's other accolades are being named one of the U.S.'s 15 most unique restaurants by Zagat, being selected as one of the 17 most important restaurants in Miami by Thrillist, being named in the Miami Food Bucket List, also by Thrillist, and winning best chef (2014, 2016, 2018) and best restaurant (2014, 2017) in Miami by the Reader's Choice Awards. Chef Adrienne entered the celebrity food world at a young age, but age was not a factor in pushing her efforts. She became the youngest person to cook for the United Nations and its ambassadors, while also displaying her expertise for CNN correspondents, competing in Food Network's *Chopped* and *Beat Bobby Flay*, and being featured in top food publications like *Gourmet*, *Bon Appetite*, and *Saveur*.

Additionally, Adrienne has drawn the interest of large corporate entities in several different fields, as she currently endorses Reebok and Sprint, to name a few. She maintains a regular position as NBC's "6 in the Mix" chef expert over 12 years. Never shying away from giving back, Chef Adrienne has been cooking for families and patients at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as part of her Make It Count foundation since 2007. If recent success is any indicator as to where Chef Adrienne's career is heading, things are certainly looking up. In 2018, she was once again named Miami's Best Chef by the New Times and was awarded the Best Bite of the Beach during the South Beach Wine & Food Festival. Her signature Maximum Flavor style has delighted her fans for over 13 years and according to her, it's only the beginning.

Maria C. Alonso
President and CEO
United Way of Miami-Dade

Maria C. Alonso assumed the role of president and CEO of United Way of Miami-Dade in August 2017, after a 22-year career with Bank of America.

Prior to joining the organization, Maria served as a United Way board member and led the redesign of our community investment process to a more strategic, collective impact approach focused on education, financial stability and health.

Her rich history of community leadership includes chairing the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and New World School of the Arts, serving as co-chair of One Community One Goal initiative and currently serving as a board member of the Beacon Council. She has also served on the boards of the Miami Foundation, Camillus House, Miami Dade College Foundation, among others.



As president and CEO, Maria is responsible for engaging the passion and expertise of thousands of contributors and hundreds of corporate and community partners in support of United Way's mission of building community by helping people care for one another. Working alongside a team of nearly 200 professionals, she guides the strategic direction, operations and finances of the largest private funder of health and human services in Miami-Dade County.

Maria holds a Master of Business Administration in marketing from Florida International University and a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Miami. She resides in Coral Gables with her husband Alex Montague and furry members of their family.

Nick Sanchez
Driver
NASCAR

Nick Sanchez will join the Rev Racing roster for his third year. Sanchez is a full time driver in the ARCA Menards Series in 2020, coming off a successful season in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series driving for Rev Racing. Sanchez was also part of Rev Racing's Youth Development Program in 2017 and 2018, driving a Legend car in the Bojangles Summer Shootout at Charlotte Motor Speedway. In his 2018 Legend car season with Rev Racing, Sanchez earned five podium finishes, six top-5s and one win in the Pro Series Class. In 2019, Sanchez made his series debut in the NASCAR



K&N Pro Series East, earning two top 10s and a pole in just three races. Nick also earned his first two victories in the NWAAS at Langley Speedway and Myrtle Beach Speedway.

Sanchez had a love of car racing from the age of five when he went to his first NASCAR truck race at Homestead Miami Speedway. By the age of 12, he began kart racing in his hometown of Miami. Over the last three and a half years, he has raced on multiple national circuits including, Rok Cup USA and The Florida Winter Tour. Sanchez has raced throughout the State of Florida at various racetracks competing in over 45 races. He has 14 top-10 and 11 top-5 finishes in karting classes ranging from Junior, Senior and Shifter.

Off the track, Nick continues to be a mentor and ambassador for meaningful endeavors and cause-related efforts, especially with the youth population. Sanchez has represented the NASCAR Drive for Diversity program as a young, accomplished Hispanic male. He has volunteered and helped promote causes with the NASCAR Foundation to improve lives of children who need medical attention through the Speediatrics Children's Fund. He has visited St. Jude and multiple elementary schools encouraging and inspiring kids across the country.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2020: 3rd in point standings in the ARCA Menards East Series
- 2019: Earned his first NASCAR K&N Series pole at South Boston Speedway
- 2019: First win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series
- 2019: Win at Langley Speedway in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series
- Selected as one of two Legend Car Drivers for the 2017 Bojangles Summer Shootout in the Rev Racing Youth Development Program
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- Finished fifth in championship points out of 32 drivers, in a 10 race series at the Bojangles Summer Shootout
- Finished the 2017 Bojangles Summer Shootout with one win, one 2nd place finish, three third finishes and one 5th place finish
- Finished second in points standings in the the 2016 Rok Cup USA Series Junior Shifter Class
- Finished second place in the 2015 Senior Shifter Championship of South Florida
- PRD Junior Champion of South Florida in 2014
- Named Top Driver on the International Racing Team
- Earned three consecutive podium finishes in Rok Cup USA

Finished eleventh in the Florida Winter Tour standings in 2016 out of 37 drivers

Audelia Martinez
CFO & COO
Le Jardin Community Center

Audelia Martinez moved to the Homestead/Redland Community with her husband, Abdon in 1988 where she enrolled her children at Le Jardin Head Start Center. At Le Jardin, she found her voice advocating for her sons as well as all the children in the Head Start Community. Today, Ms. Martinez is the Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer for Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. where she has worked for over 23 years.

Ms. Martinez is a staunch supporter of higher education as a means of empowerment and self-efficacy, having received a Bachelor's degree in finance and a Master's in Business Administration, while working full time and raising a family. Ms. Martinez has dedicated and continues to dedicate much of her time volunteering with community and faith-based organizations, and continuously advocating for children and families. She has served on the Southwest Advisory Board, Sacred Heart Women's Club, the Homestead Housing Authority, and the City of Homestead Planning and Zoning Board, where she led the board as chair. At each of these organizations, she has led as a visionary whose strength, common-sense and sense of justice prevail.

Thanks to her leadership and commitment to children and families, Ms. Martinez has been awarded innumerable honors including Woman of the Year from the Woman's Club of Homestead and Champions for Education Administrator of the Year, from the City of Homestead, Vice-Mayor Patricia Fairclough, and the Education Committee. She has been instrumental behind the numerous distinctions awarded to Le Jardin Community Center, including Non-profit Organization of the Year from the City of Homestead.

Ms. Martinez not only advocates and works for children and families, she is also a mentor and teacher, encouraging others to further their education and find their voice. Ms. Martinez's tireless efforts on behalf of all children and families has been steady, unswerving, and exemplifies everything that is best about our nation.



Arturo Lopez
Executive Director
COFFO

Arturo Lopez is presently the Executive Director of the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, an agency that was created to improve the working and living conditions of farmworkers and the rural poor in Florida.

Prior to assuming the position which he presently holds, Mr. Lopez was the Executive Director of the Illinois Migrant Council. Mr. Lopez has dedicated most of his life to serving farmworker organizations and migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Mr. Lopez is very active with other farmworker organizations and committees and his present affiliations include:

Chairman of the Migrant Service Providers in Miami Dade County
Treasurer of the Everglades Housing Group, Inc., Florida City
Chairman of the Rural Neighborhood Housing Inc., Florida City
Secretary/Treasurer of the Cypress Housing Corporation, Collier County
Secretary/Treasurer of Little Manatee Housing Corp., Hillsborough County
Secretary of MAFO a National Organization of Farmworker Organizations
Member of the National Farmworker Alliance
Member of the Miami Dade Agricultural Practices Advisory Board



Susan J. Rubio Rivera
Executive Director
MUJER

Life as a migrant farmworker is hard on a child, but it's even harder when your alcoholic father beats your mother and makes you watch. But when the violence turned to her oldest sister, then just seven years old, her mother walked out the door with four girls in tow. So began the arduous journey of Susan Rubio Rivera, one of those four sisters.

Fleeing from a home full of violence, Susan and her family ended up in a relative's home where she and all of her sisters were sexually molested. At 16, she married and went on the road with other migrant workers, living mostly on the back of pick-up trucks through the birth of her daughter and son. By 19, her husband had discovered drugs and other women, so she left him and moved with her children to Florida. There she sought help from an agency called Organized Migrants in Community Action (OMICA), that helped her get back on her feet.



She went on to night school and earned her GED. She continued on to community college where she earned her associate degree. In 1979, OMICA evolved into Centro Campesino, a non-profit agency helping the migrant farmworker community. Susan became its deputy director, working to ensure that quality programs were available to women and children.

Susan has used her life experiences to bring the issues of domestic/sexual violence and child abuse to the forefront. She founded Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educacion y Reforma (MUJER) in 1994, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, emotional wellness and family stability. Through these efforts, Susan has been able to reach out to families from all walks of life and backgrounds. "Although my sisters and I were all victims of abuse, at that time, I was unable to spare them the pain and suffering that they endured, she said. Through MUJER, we are helping women to regain their self-worth and break the cycle of violence. At MUJER, we don't just provide band-aid services to temporarily address chronic problems that need long-term solutions."

Her mission is simple, to improve the quality of life for women and children and to create a "safe haven" where these children can experience hope. Through her organization, Susan has been able to do for others what she was unable to do for her sisters. And she is not done yet. Susan earned a Bachelor's degree from Barry University, received a Louis Stokes Scholarship to attend Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where she earned a Master's in Social Work Administration in May 2006.

In June 2004, Susan Rubio Rivera's work was nationally recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation who selected her and nine others from more than 800 nominees to receive the RWJ National Health Leadership Award for meeting the health needs of her community.

In 2014, Susan's story was showcased in "Out of Darkness Into Light" an Emmy award documentary on Child Sexual Abuse.